

# NATIONAL OFFICE BULLETIN

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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## National Convention Attracts Parents and Teachers to Seattle May 21-26

Interest of the parent-teacher world centers this month upon the Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in Seattle, May 21-26. Are you one of the lucky members who will be present to gain the inspiration and information to be had only at a nationwide gathering such as this?

### New Features

Several innovations will be introduced at the 1933 convention. National officers and committee chairmen will hold informal conference periods each afternoon, which will give every delegate an opportunity to meet National Board members. Mrs. Hugh Bradford will preside at an organization conference on Tuesday, May 23, which will clear up troublesome questions as to the relationship and interdependence of local, state, and national organizations.

Discussion conferences will give delegates a chance to ask questions and express opinions on many subjects pertaining to parent-teacher work. Parent education classes each morning under the leadership of Alice Sowers, will provide much information. And every minute of the convention is planned to be full of events of maximum usefulness to leaders and local delegates.

### New Ideas and Information

*Do you know what services are offered by your National Office?*

Study the National Congress Exhibit on the mezzanine balcony of the Olympic Hotel. Here will be found new ideas and information. This exhibit will include a display of National Congress services. Some of these services will be new to you; some may have been forgotten. National Office secretaries will be in daily attendance to assist in explaining these services and to offer suggestions for adapting them to your needs.

#### Congress Publications Booth

*Are you familiar with Congress publications which will help you plan P.-T. A. programs and activities?*

The Congress Publications Booth, near the Spanish Lounge entrance to the exhibit balcony, will have on display books, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, charts, proof-sheets, and suggestions for their use. New publications for the year, just off the press, will be featured.

### How to Use This Bulletin

1. Place it in the hands of members, especially potential leaders, who do not receive copies of it.
2. File it for future reference. General information about all phases of Congress work will come to you through its pages.
3. Show it to educators.
4. Note items of special interest to local units, and pass them on, through the state bulletin, news releases, letters, or other means.
5. Adapt suggestions published in it to suit the needs of your state. Unique activities of other state branches may suggest new fields of endeavor to you.

## Citizens' Conference Urged

Citizens' groups, broadly representative of the community, formed to study and sustain educational finances are urged by Mrs. Hugh Bradford, National President, in her 1933 annual report. Referring to the Citizens' Conference on the Crisis in Education, called by President Hoover early in January, Mrs. Bradford says: "The significance of the Citizens' Conference lies in the fact that for the first time many who were never before asked to support education were given an opportunity to catch the viewpoint of the educator. Many of these citizens had been opposed to the type of education we have sponsored—that of giving all children and all adults as much education as they desired; many of them were entirely without understanding of modern education, and freely confessed it. It is not then to be expected that education would be properly financed by a world largely devoted to business and which has had no appreciation of education ideals or methods. It is a more hopeful and constructive plan to make a peaceable offensive for the proper appreciation of modern education by meeting the leaders of the civic and business world in conference and by discussing education as the responsibility of citizens as well as of teachers.

"It is important that we parent-teacher members assist in promoting these possibilities. One of our past purposes in advocating the better appreciation of education has been to draw into our conferences at parent-teacher meetings, leaders in all walks of life that they may become a sympathetic public. It is now also necessary that wherever it is possible we lend our influence to the meetings of citizens who may be properly informed by our professional teachers of the needs of education and of its paramount importance."

## P.-T. A. Interested in Radio Programs for Children

Organized protests from parents against certain types of objectionable radio programs for children are receiving serious consideration by radio broadcasters at present.

Many state and local parent-teacher association organizations are urging broadcasters to improve radio programs designed for juvenile listeners.

The New Jersey Congress has gone on record as being opposed to such features as incorrect and vulgar English, especially ungrammatical forms; ugly actions, quarreling, revenge, etc.; unwholesome situations, sophisticated and unchildlike; terrifying situations inducing fear of the dark or of being alone; sensational excitement, unwholesome life. Examples of programs illustrating each type of objectionable features have been tabulated, and a listing of worthwhile programs for children has been made.

A movement to find out from the children themselves what they wish in the way of radio programs has been started by B. H. Darrow, National Chairman of Radio, and Director of the Ohio School of the Air. Mr. Darrow writes:

"The Bureau of Educational Research at Ohio University is cooperating and we are receiving hundreds of reports from children. The questionnaire attempts to make sure that the replies of the child will be spontaneous and not suggested answers. An opportunity is taken to get the boys' and girls' own evaluation of some of the types of programs which we think may well be substituted for the objectionable program. Our study will be on a sufficient scale that the results will be significant." "Children's Radio Programs" will be discussed by Franklin Dunham, Education Director, National Broadcasting Company, at a discussion conference on Radio Education to be held Thursday afternoon, May 25, at the National Convention in Seattle. B. H. Darrow, National Radio Chairman, and Dr. Tracy F. Tyler, Secretary and Research Director of the National Committee on Education by Radio, will assist Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, First Vice-president of the N.C.P.T., as discussion leaders.

An article on "Radio Entertainment for Children," by Alice Keith, will appear in the June-July issue of *Child Welfare*.

"Children and the Radio," a radio address by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, may be secured by sending a stamped addressed envelop to the National Office.



## 1933 Summer Round-Up Begins

May Day-National Child Health Day ushered in the 1933 Summer Round-Up of the Children in hundreds of communities. Approximately 4,500 Congress parent-teacher associations in 37 states and Hawaii registered for the campaign before May 1, and registrations are being received daily in the National Summer Round-Up office.

The importance of good nutrition will be emphasized throughout the 1933 campaign. Special emphasis has been given to nutrition in all health work of the Congress during the past year, and many helpful articles and outlines have been prepared for the Congress by specialists in the field of nutrition.

(A general summary of accomplishments of the 1932 Summer Round-Up campaign, tabulated by states, may be secured by sending a stamped self-addressed envelop to the National Office.)

## Parent-Teacher Manual

### A New Service to Leaders

A new *Parent-Teacher Manual*, a combination of the *Handbook*, *Projects and Program Making*, and eight organization leaflets into one volume, is a special service which is being offered to National and state leaders. Local leaders desiring the combined volume in addition to the separate pamphlets, which are included in the local unit package, may secure the volume at the special price of 30c per copy.

## Educators' Talks Available

Addresses made at the Parent-Teacher Section meeting of the Department of Superintendence Convention in Minneapolis, February 25 to March 2, 1933, are available in mimeographed form as follows:

"Responsibility of the Public to the School," by William John Cooper, U. S. Commissioner of Education, and "The Superintendent and His Community," by Carroll R. Reed, Superintendent of Schools, Minneapolis. Single copies are free from the National Office. Inclose postage with request.

## Children's Reading List

A new graded reading list for children, which gives suggestions for selecting suitable books for children, has recently been prepared by Clara Herbert, Associate Chairman of Home Education, and Louisa P. Latimer, Washington Public Library. The list may be ordered from the National Office at 10 cents a copy or at special quantity prices.

## This Year's Work

Reports from all parts of the country are rolling into the National Office. Soon they will all be fitted together into a nationwide picture of what the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has been doing during this year of 1933. Just now, the following impressions are the most vivid:

*State Presidents* are reporting a widespread interest in "keeping children in school," by any means necessary—from giving the individual child his lunch to battling the combined legislatures of 48 states in order to keep up the high standard of the public school system in the United States.

*National Chairmen* are busy counterbalancing the depression by teaching parent-teacher people how to give their children the best in life through an understanding of spiritual, mental, and physical values.

*National Officers* have been active this year in protecting the parent-teacher movement from possible loss of progress due to the economic crisis.

*The 1933 Annual Summary of Congress Information* will contain local unit information. A number of reports are already in—Quoting from one: "Out of 79 local unit reports received 75 reported the welfare of children the great objective; 42 provided hot lunches—one association served 12,839 hot meals; 11 provided milk; 6 assisted in cost of dental work; 6 promoted recreation facilities; 3 rural schools provided library books; 3 provided flowers and shrubbery for school grounds, and 3 promoted a safety patrol at the school corner.

A few states have indicated that they hesitate to send in reports because of the few returns from local units. We should like to receive a report from every state based on the number of reports received from P. T. A's regardless of how few there are. Every one counts.

For summary of National reports, see 1933 PROCEEDINGS of the N. C. P. T. available August 1.

## From the Mail Bag

"I am greatly pleased with the National Office Bulletin . . . I hope to see it enriched by contributions from national officers and chairmen, who may also use this means of reaching leaders throughout the country . . ."

"I like the new National Office Bulletin. I enjoy the Publicity Chat and Parent-Teacher News Release, but will be glad to have whatever paper would prove of most value to my county publicity chairman . . ."

"The National Office Bulletins are being distributed. I think they are going to meet with our hearty approval. I think it is a step in the right direction."

## What to Do in Vacation

What to do with the children—and what the children can do with themselves during vacation, is a perennial problem. J. W. Faust, National Chairman of Recreation, suggests: "As a preparation for vacations, in every house and in every backyard there should be a place sacred to the play of children and the family; a room or a corner in the basement, attic, or elsewhere—tools and material to work and play with. It isn't necessary to sacrifice all the beauty in the backyard; gardens can be put near the house and on the sides leaving the back and center part of the yard for children's and family play.

## Things for the Backyard

"Have a place to pitch horseshoes; a horizontal bar for chinning and stunts; poles for high jumping. Knock the bottom out of a peach basket, and fasten to a tree or side of a barn to practise basketball throwing. Build a play house or hut. Make a fireplace from old stones, brick and cement, for outdoor camping and picnic meals.

## Things to Make

"Make kites, model aeroplanes, sailing ships, bows, arrows, targets, toys, and costumes for shows in the house and outdoors. Make Indian teepees from burlap bags and decorate. Mount, label, and know things found in your community—wild flowers, ferns, grasses, tree leaves, moths, minerals (rocks), shells; make a museum of your collections. Make a scrapbook of the history of your community or county. Illustrate with pictures. Ask questions of the oldest settlers. Take nature hikes and keep a diary of these and other trips made during the summer. Have family picnics in the backyard or away from home, with songs and story telling. If you can't go to the country, use your backyard as a substitute—cook and sleep outdoors. See and hear each day something beautiful—a sunset, a sunrise, bird calls, the wind whistling through the willows or singing through the pines. With a little effort you can think of hundreds of other things to do to be happy and busy this summer."

The Congress leaflets by Mr. Faust on "How to Start a Community Recreation Center" and "Recreation," and the June-July issue of *Child Welfare Magazine* will offer further suggestions for vacation activities.

## Study Group Aids

"Practical Aids for Study Groups and for Individuals Interested in Child Care and Training," by Ellen C. Lombard, Associate Specialist in Parent Education, is a new circular available free, from the U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D. C. Miss Lombard is National Chairman of Home Education for the N. C. P. T.



## Parent Education Will Continue in New York State

Parent education has been carried on in many parts of New York state, organized and supervised by the Division of Child Development and Parental Education of the State Education Department. This division, financed by a grant from the Laura Spelman Fund, has in the past five years demonstrated an interest in parent education and has offered opportunities for study and discussion which parent-teacher groups have been eager to utilize. In the year 1931-32, more than 12,000 parents attended study classes in New York State, many of these being parent-teacher members.

The five-year grant ends in July, 1933, and realizing that this desirable activity must not cease, the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers unanimously adopted a resolution at its state convention last October, urging the Governor and the Legislature to provide funds to carry on this activity. A committee was appointed to work for its continuance, with Mrs. Frederick M. Hosmer, Second Vice-president of the National Congress, as chairman of the committee.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Hosmer and Mrs. Francis H. Blake, President of the New York State Congress, members of Congress units, study groups, officers, and chairmen of local, district, and state Congress boards, all interested in seeing the work continue, explained its importance to their senators and assemblymen, as well as to the Governor of the State. As a result, the Feld Bill, providing \$16,000 to finance the work of this division for the coming year was passed by the senate and the assembly just before the legislature adjourned.

—Mrs. Tristram W. Metcalf, Director, State Publicity Department.

## Summer Meetings

National Tuberculosis Association Convention, June 26-30, 1933, Toronto, Canada.

National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers—Seventh Annual Convention, July 30 to August 2, 1933, Louisville, Kentucky.

American Child Health Association—Seventh Health Education Conference, June 20 to 24, 1933, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

World Federation of Education Associations. Biennial Convention. July 27 to Aug. 4, 1933, Dublin, Ireland.

## Parent-Teacher Courses and Conferences in Summer Schools 1933

Iowa University—June 19-24. Conference—Director, Mrs. C. E. Roe.

Maryland University—July 10-14. Conference—Director, Mrs. A. C. Watkins.

Nebraska

Hastings College—June 21-July 9. Course—Instructor, W. A. Bratt.

Omaha Municipal University—July 5-9. Conference — Director, Mrs. Gail Powell.

State Teachers' College—Peru—June 6-August 9. Conference—Instructor, J. W. Tyler.

University of Nebraska—June 13-24. Course—Instructor, E. L. Novotny.

Utah University—June 12-24. Credit Course—Instructor, Mrs. A. C. Watkins.

It is probable that in Oklahoma, Tulsa University and Oklahoma City University, and eight teachers colleges will offer courses or conferences during the coming summer. A plan is also under way to have a parent-teacher course at the University of Florida this year.

## Federal Emergency Loans for Schools

The George Bill, providing for Federal loans for schools by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation will not be passed, Mrs. William T. Bannerman, National Chairman, Committee on Legislation, advises state chairmen of legislation. She states that she has been assured by responsible officials that state or municipal bonds redeemable within five years will be acceptable by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as adequate security for loans to banks. This means that, while state and city authorities cannot borrow directly from the R. F. C., their bonds will be accepted as collateral for loans by the R. F. C., when offered by banks. The banks will thus become the guarantors or surety for repayment of the loans. No legislation is necessary to obtain these loans. South Carolina borrowed money from local bankers to finance her schools many months ago by this method.

## P.-T. A. Programs

A list of ten suggested program outlines for parent-teacher associations, to be published in *Child Welfare Magazine* next year, appears in the May issue of the magazine. These programs will have as their objective a better understanding of present day issues which affect the welfare of children.

## Art Committee Activities

The Parent-Teacher Association, the Board of Education, and the Adult Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Columbus, Ohio, have combined in a novel effort to encourage the intelligent use of leisure time by holding in every school building an exhibit of arts and crafts produced by parents of school children or any adult living in the school district.

The exhibit is to include handiwork of original design, drawings, paintings, sculpture, wood carving, weaving, fine needlework, quilts and rugs of original design, metal work, fine cabinet work, pottery, glass, small models, book making and stage designs.

The exhibits will be held in the public, parochial, and private schools of the city sometime during the month of April. From these individual school exhibits, a selection of the most interesting objects will be made and later passed upon by a competent jury and shown in an exhibit of "Folk Art" of the City of Columbus, during the first two weeks of May in the Gallery of Fine Arts.

## If Your Unit Needs Publicity

Does your P. T. A. need more publicity?

Does it deserve more newspaper space?

Does your publicity chairman need help?

If your answer is in the affirmative, we suggest that your chairman send for the new booklet *Parent-Teacher Publicity*, a guidebook for beginners, which will be published by the National Congress after the National Convention. Written from the point of view of the inexperienced worker, this booklet is full of practical suggestions for carrying on parent-teacher publicity. The price is 25 cents. Orders are now being received and will be filled as soon as *Parent-Teacher Publicity* is off the press—about August 15.

## Parliamentary Law Course

Do you know—

The rules of parliamentary procedure?

How to make a motion?

How to preside efficiently at meetings?

A correspondence course in Parliamentary Procedure, consisting of ten lessons, is offered this year by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, under the direction of Mrs. A. C. Watkins, Education Secretary. The course is based on the Parliamentary Procedure leaflet and *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised*. The registration fee is one dollar. Full information about the course and registration blanks may be secured from the National Office.



## NEWS FROM THE STATES

**Alabama**—Birmingham registered 100 percent for the 1933 Summer Round-Up. All elementary associations of Birmingham Council had registered for the Summer Round-Up by March 31.

**Arizona**—A demonstration by children in the State School for the Deaf and the Blind, including Braille reading, lip reading, rope tying, and musical numbers was featured in the program of the Central district P.-T. A. meeting held in Coolidge in April. The town of Coolidge founded in 1927 has a P.-T. A. two years old, with 100 percent membership.

**Arkansas**—The state Congress is planning a program which will furnish school facts to the people and restore adequate supervision to the rural schools.

**California**—An athletic carnival, with participants selected from the ranks of colleges, highschools, and junior highschools was staged April 1 by the San Francisco Council of highschool P. T. A's. Receipts went to the scholarship fund.

**District of Columbia**—Undernourished children have been given special attention this year and every effort has been made to see that no child went hungry. Walter Winchell, New York columnist, awarded an orchid corsage to Mrs. J. N. Saunders, President of the District Congress, in recognition of her work along this line.

**Georgia**—To meet the problems created by the emergency in education was the foremost thought of the 1933 convention of the Georgia Congress of Parents and Teachers . . . The Congress went on record for adequate support of education . . . The Congress is working vigorously in cooperation with the county superintendents and the Georgia Education Association . . . Attention will be given to the whole problem of taxation as it affects the schools. It is hoped that through such intensive effort an adequate educational program may be determined, and that the rank and file of people may be assisted in studying and supporting education as one great solution of the nation's difficulties.—Mrs. R. H. Hankinson, President.

**Illinois**—At the request of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, the University of Chicago is cooperating in broadcasting educational programs to spread a better understanding of present conditions in schools. Public schools as never before, are being threatened, and proper legislation must be enacted immediately to safeguard the schools, it is believed.

Programs are given by members of the faculty on Wednesday afternoons, 2:15 to 2:30, Central Standard Time, over KYW (1020 kilocycles). Programs with outlines of lectures may be obtained from Radio Department, University of Chicago.

**Kansas**—Vacation reading clubs of children are conducted in a county P.-T. A. under the direction of the Kansas State Chairman of Home Education and Reading. Reader's pins are awarded for completion of a certain amount of reading and submission of reports. Schools cooperate in this project.

**Kentucky**—A Penny Campaign piled up dollars for the Student Loan Fund of the Louisville Council of P.-T. A's. recently. Highschool and college students assisted 350 workers representing 56 P.-T. A's. in this campaign for \$5,000. Since the Student Loan Fund was established in 1921, more than 700 loans amounting to more than \$45,000 have been made. At present, 113 highschool girls and boys are being aided by the fund.

**New Mexico**—Miss Alice Sowers, Associate Chairman of Parent Education, after a visit to New Mexico, writes: "At our parent education meeting at Mesilla Park, the attendance of 75 persons represented 15 towns. Two ladies drove 100 miles to the meeting and another drove 300 miles. At least two of the towns represented do not have a P.-T. A., but are interested in organizing. One county superintendent hopes to start P.-T. A. work in her county, as a result of this parent education meeting."

**South Carolina**—Mrs. John Wilson, President of the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, recently arranged through Mr. J. P. Coates, Secretary of the South Carolina Education Association, for Miss Marian L. Telford, Safety Chairman of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, to speak on the regular weekly radio program of the State Education Association. Miss Telford talked on "The Need for Safety Instruction in Home and School."

**Texas**—Fathers in Houston participate in P.-T. A. work as actively as do mothers. A masculine public welfare chairman secured a traffic policeman for the school crossing; another organized a Boys' Safety Patrol as playground policemen. A Nickel Brigade of men collects funds for school lunches for the undernourished children. Fathers help in other phases of the work: A photographer takes the pictures for the publicity scrapbook; a jeweler lends his case for an exhibit; a caterer serves refreshments; the doctor and dentist aid in the Summer Round-Up; a sign painter makes posters for the membership drive. Fourteen men staged a minstrel show to make money for P.-T. A. work. At Halloween and May fetes the men sell soda water, ice cream, hot dogs, etc., taking the whole responsibility. Many of the meetings are in the evening so that the men can attend. An octet of fathers sings regularly for one unit; a chorus of Whistling Men helps out on programs for another.

**Rhode Island**—The Summer Round-Up Committee presented little certificates of health to all children who had remediable defects corrected this year. A real program for the presentation made it impressive for children and parents.

In cooperation with the Rhode Island School of Design, art instructors were sent to towns needing such instruction. They were so well received that the town councils paid necessary expenses, and more towns will be cared for during the coming year.

## Introducing New State Congress Presidents

**Alabama**—Mrs. James Fitts Hill, 105 Gilmore Avenue, Montgomery.

**Florida**—Mrs. Malcolm McLellan, 25 Herschell Avenue, Jacksonville.

**Oklahoma**—Mrs. John R. Burns, Okmulgee.

**New Hampshire**—Mrs. George Warwick, Jr., Westmoreland Depot.

## Will You Clip?

When you see an outstanding piece of parent-teacher work reported in the newspapers, will you clip and send it to the National Office? Only outstanding accounts should be sent. Even though your state has a clippings chairman, he may fail to see the item your keen eye detects, so help him by calling attention to such clippings.

## Recent Visitors at National Office

Miss Julia Wright Merrill, American Library Association, Chicago. National Congress Chairman of Library Extension.

Mrs. C. H. Remington, Providence, R. I. President of the Child Welfare Magazine Company, and National Chairman, Child Welfare Committee.

Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson, Woman's Home Companion, New York City. Former National Congress Chairman of Citizenship.

Mr. Stanwood Cobb, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Educator and author.

Twenty-five foreign students from Columbia University.

## Support of Education

A general summary of How Parent-Teacher Associations Helped Keep Children in School During 1932-33, as reported by states, has been compiled in mimeograph form. Free copies will be distributed at the exhibits booth at the National Convention. Single copies may be ordered from the National Office, for 3 cents postage.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION—NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

MAY 21-26, 1933—SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Theme: The Child and His Community—Headquarters: Olympic Hotel